

Message Text

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SOPH (KISSINGER, HENRY A.)

SUBJECT: WASHSTAR-NEWS EDITORIAL: "KISSINGER: SMOOTH
GESTURES AGAINST SWELLING DILEMMAS"

FOR ANDERSON FROM S/PRS (FUNSETH)

NO. 41

FOLLOWING IS COMPLETE TEXT OF "TRB" (AKA RICHARD STROUT)
EDITORIAL IN WASHINGTON STAR-NEWS OF SATURDAY, AUGUST 30:

"WATCH SECRETARY KISSINGER'S RIGHT HAND. HE IS TALKING TO
A BREAKFAST GROUP. HE IS NOT GOING TO BE QUOTED UNDER HIS
OWN NAME; WHAT HE SAYS WILL BE ATTRIBUTED TO A "HIGH
ADMINISTRATION SOURCE." HE WEARS A SUMMER BUSINESS SUIT,
LIGHT BLUE SHIRT, DARK BLUE NECKTIE. HIS VOICE IS COM-
POSED AND CONVERSATIONAL WITH A SLIGHT GERMAN ACCENT, LONG
SINCE ACCEPTED WITH RELISH BY REPORTERS AND THE WORLD.

"THE RESTLESS HAND ACCOMPANIES EVERYTHING HE SAYS IN A
FAINT GESTICULATORY ECHO. HIS LEFT HAND TAKES NO PART IN
THE CONVERSATION. THE MOVEMENT IS AS SUAVE AND FLUID AS
THE HAND OF A BALLERINA. FOR A PLACATORY EXPLANATION, IT
OPENS. FOR AN APPEAL, IT FAINTLY SUPPLICATES. FOR EM-
PHASIS, IT FORMS A FIST, JUST FOR A SECOND, AND TOUCHES
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THE TABLECLOTH. ARE MIDDLE EAST PROBLEMS TANGLED AND IN-
TRICATE? -- THE HAND TWIRLS VAGUELY. KISSINGER SEEMS
QUITE UNCONSCIOUS OF THE HAND'S ACCOMPANIMENT. THE GES-
TURES MODULATE HIS MEANING AS THE VOICE DOES HIS

FEELINGS.

"A FASCINATING SUBJECT, KISSINGER, BY ANY STANDARD. HE WON THE NOBEL PRIZE; HIS FACE APPEARED SIMULTANEOUSLY ON TIME AND NEWSWEEK; HIS GALLUP RATING WAS 56 PERCENT WHEN THE PRESIDENT'S WAS 52 PERCENT, HE HAS A DUAL ROLE, TOP HAT FOR SECRETARY OF STATE, TRENCH HELMET FOR CHAIRMAN OF THE NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL. HE WEARS THEM BOTH. WE HAVE HAD STRONG SECRETARIES BEFORE -- JOHN FOSTER DULLES AND DEAN ACHESON -- BUT HAS ANY HAD THE IMPORTANCE FOR HIS PRESIDENT THAT HENRY HAS FOR JERRY?

"NOW HE HAS CONCLUDED, PERHAPS TRIUMPHANTLY, HIS LATEST TO-AND-FRO, TENNIS SET OF DIPLOMACY IN THE MIDDLE EAST. HE IS A SENSITIVE, EVEN A ROMANTIC, FIGURE. INSTANTLY HE CATCHES THE NUANCES OF A QUESTION, ANSWERS IT IMMEDIATELY AND SKILLFULLY (RIGHT HAND REPLYING, TOO). AT THE SALZBURG PRESS CONFERENCE HE THREATENED, IN A CHOKED VOICE, TO RESIGN OVER THE WIRETAP INCIDENT. FOUR NEWSMEN AND 13 GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS HAD THEIR HOME PHONES TAPPED (INCLUDING A SENIOR MILITARY ADVISER TO DEFENSE SECRETARY LAIRD, AND A SENIOR ADVISER TO THEN UNDER SECRETARY OF STATE ELLIOT RICHARDSON WITH WHOM THEIR PRINCIPALS FREQUENTLY TALKED.) IT WAS IN THE BAD DAYS OF NIXON, WITH LEAKS AND THREATS OF LEAKS. KISSINGER SAID HE KNEW NOTHING OF THE TAPS BUT CONGRESSIONAL SUSPICION MOUNTED. THEN CAME HIS DRAMATIC THREAT TO QUIT AT SALZBURG. WAS IT A DIPLOMATIC TANTRUM, OR WAS IT A CALCULATED ACT, DIRECTED AT AN AUDIENCE OF ONE, PRESIDENT NIXON? THE LATTER SHORTLY AFTERWARD TOOK RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE WIRETAPS (FOR NATIONAL SECURITY, OF COURSE).

"KISSINGER DOESN'T WANT TO STAY ON MUCH LONGER AT THE STATE DEPARTMENT, OR AT LEAST THAT IS WHAT 'A HIGH OFFICIAL SOURCE' SAYS. ONLY THE STRONGEST PRESSURE FROM THE PRESIDENT WILL KEEP HIM IN OFFICE AFTER NOVEMBER 1976 IF REPUBLICANS WIN, THE SOURCE SAYS. VERY LIKELY TRUE, BUT UNCLASSIFIED

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DOES THE LEFT HAND KNOW WHAT THE RIGHT HAND IS SAYING? MR. FORD TOLD A PRESS CONFERENCE, 'AS FAR AS I'M CONCERNED HE CAN STAY AS LONG AS HE WANTS TO.'

"A GREAT DIPLOMATIC VICTORY, IN THE MIDDLE EAST, SAY, WOULD GIVE KISSINGER A WIDER FREEDOM OF CHOICE, WHETHER TO STAY ON AND AWE HIS CRITICS, OR TO STEP DOWN IN A CLOUD OF GLORY. BUT THE SINAI AGREEMENT MUST WIN APPROVAL OF CONGRESS. HOW WILL CONGRESS AND THE NATION FEEL ABOUT 100 TO 200 AMERICAN CIVILIANS OPERATING TECHNICAL WARNING SYSTEMS AS PART OF AN ISRAELI-EGYPTIAN INTERIM SETTLEMENT? THIS IS AN EMOTION-PACKED ISSUE THAT MIGHT DOMINATE CONGRESS FOR MONTHS.

"BUT THE WORLD HAS STILL BIGGER LONG-TERM ISSUES. HOW CAN FUTURE GENERATIONS UNDERSTAND, KISSINGER ASKS, HOW WE STUMBLED INTO AN ARMS RACE THAT LEADS NOWHERE WHEN THE QUESTION OF THE NUCLEAR FUTURE OF MANKIND IS AT STAKE? HE ASKS THE RIGHT QUESTIONS WHETHER HE GIVES THE RIGHT ANSWERS. ANOTHER ISSUE WILL PROBABLY DOMINATE AMERICAN FOREIGN POLICY, ONE WAY OR ANOTHER, FOR THE NEXT HALF-CENTURY. HOW CAN A NATION WITH ONLY 5 PERCENT OF THE WORLD'S POPULATION HOPE TO CONTINUE TO CONSUME A THIRD OF THE EARTH'S ENERGY, A HUGE PROPORTION OF ANIMAL PROTEIN IN A PROTEIN-STARVED WORLD, AND 40 PERCENT OF THE WORLD'S RAW RESOURCES?

"IT SIMPLY CAN'T BE DONE. SIGNS OF REBELLION BY LESS FORTUNATE LANDS APPEAR WITH INCREASING FREQUENCY. A BASIC QUESTION IN AMERICAN FOREIGN POLICY FOR THE NEXT 50 YEARS IS WHETHER WE ATTEMPT TO PRESERVE THIS VOLCANIC SAN ANDREAS ECONOMIC 'FAULT' BETWEEN RICH AND POOR COUNTRIES BY FORCE OR WHETHER WE GRACEFULLY ASSIST THEM TO RISE TO OUR LEVEL. RATHER GRUDGINGLY IT IS THE LATTER POLICY THAT WE HAVE BEEN TRYING TO FOLLOW.

"THE WORLD BANK AND INTERNATIONAL MONETARY FUND HOLD ANNUAL MEETINGS HERE NEXT WEEK AND SECRETARY KISSINGER ADDRESSES A SPECIAL U.N. ASSEMBLY MEETING IN NEW YORK. THESE ORGANIZATIONS REPORT THAT THE GAP BETWEEN RICH AND POOR NATIONS IS GROWING. AND REPORTERS AT THE 1974 UNCLASSIFIED

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BUCHAREST CONFERENCE ON POPULATION, THE ROME FOOD CONFERENCE, THE MEXICO CITY CONFERENCE ON WOMEN AND NOW THE LIMA CONFERENCE OF UNALIGNED COUNTRIES KNOW THE SULLEN ENVY FELT TOWARD THE RICHEST NATION, WITH 5 PERCENT OF THE POPULATION. SOME ANTI-AMERICAN FEELING WASHES OFF UPON OUR FRIEND ISRAEL.

"CANADA'S LATE LESTER PEARSON WARNED THAT THE PLANET CAN'T SURVIVE 'HALF SLAVE, HALF FREE, HALF ENGULFED IN MISERY, HALF CAREENING ALONG TOWARD THE SUPPOSED JOYS OF ALMOST UNLIMITED CONSUMPTION.' PEARSON WONDERED IF THE U.N., BORN IN SAN FRANCISCO 30 YEARS AGO, WOULD REACH ITS 50TH ANNIVERSARY. INDEED, THE STRAINS ON THE U.N. HAVE NEVER BEEN HEAVIER. A VAGUE BUT OMINOUS DEMAND ARISES FOR 'A NEW ECONOMIC ORDER' WHICH, TRANSLATED, APPEARS TO MEAN SHARE-THE-WEALTH. IN ITS REPORT THREE YEARS AGO THE WORLD BANK OBSERVED, COLORLESSLY, 'AS A GENERALITY, IT IS PROBABLY TRUE THAT THE WORLD'S BURDEN OF POVERTY IS INCREASING RATHER THAN DECLINING.' INCOME DISTRIBUTION, IT SAID, IS 'SEVERELY SKEWED.' LAST WEEK THE WORLD BANK MADE ITS LATEST REPORT IN THE SAME GRAY, NEUTRAL TONE; THE RISE IN FUEL AND FOOD PRICES IS PUTTING ITS SEVEREST BUR-

DEN ON THE 1 BILLION PEOPLE LIVING IN POOR COUNTRIES, A
FOURTH OF PLANET EARTH'S PASSENGERS.

"WE ASK KISSINGER TO GUIDE US THROUGH PROBLEMS LIKE THESE.
MEANWHILE, POPULATIONS GROW; RESOURCES SHRINK; THE WORLD
SPENDS AN AMAZING DOLLAR 200 BILLION ANNUALLY ON ARMA-
MENTS. (INDIA, FOR EXAMPLE, WHERE MALTHUS HAS TRIUMPHED,
SPENDS MORE THAN FOUR TIMES MORE MONEY ON DEFENSE THAN
EDUCATION.) IT IS A SITUATION FOR WHICH EVEN KISSINGER'S
RIGHT HAND MIGHT HAVE DIFFICULTY FINDING A GESTURE."

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